

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 1-4 and 13. These sheets, which include Figures 1-4 and 13, replace the original sheets including Figures 1-4 and 13.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The application is amended herewith in a manner that is believed to place the same in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Page 15 of the specification is amended to introduce suitable reference to element 91'' from Fig. 9 of the drawings.

The reference to transparent electrode 42' on page 9, line 21 of the specification is intended to refer to the additional peripheral transparent electrode shown on the right-hand side of the lower sectional view of Fig. 4, which electrode 42' forms a part of the leading wiring 48, bridging the short-circuit that would otherwise arise from the discontinuity in metal auxiliary electrode 43. The reference in Fig. 4 is corrected herewith, by way of a replacement sheet of drawings for Fig. 4.

We also point out that, in the replacement sheets of drawings for Figs. 4 and 13, the lead line from reference numeral 46 and 136 in the plan views of those figures has been extended to designate the innermost concentric square, which corresponds to the organic layer, as confirmed by reference to the lower sectional view of each of Figs. 4 and 13.

Figs. 1-3 are replaced herewith by substitute figures that bear the label "prior art", consistent with their

description in the specification, and per the requirement imposed in the outstanding Official Action.

The original claims 1-19 are amended herewith, and new claims 20-28 are added.

In amending the original claims 1-19, each of the formal criticisms that gave rise to the indefiniteness rejection applied at page 3 of the Official Action has been addressed and corrected. The efficacy of those corrections to overcome the indefiniteness rejection as applied to the original claims being self-evident, it is believed that the indefiniteness rejection may now be withdrawn and should not be reapplied to any of the claims as they now appear in the case.

The original claims were rejected as being either anticipated or obvious in view of FLEMING U.S. Patent No. 6,111,357. That rejection is respectfully traversed, for the following reasons.

FLEMING shows in Fig. 6 several different shapes of apertures formed in the seal zones 24 of metallized leaders 20, within the perimeter seal band 44.

By contrast, in the present invention as recited in claims 1-27, the recited discontinuity extends across the entire width of the recited metal auxiliary electrode, a feature not shown or suggested by FLEMING et al. Indeed, were an aperture in FLEMING to extend the full width of the metal leader, then in the

Fig. 1b embodiment that would create a short circuit disabling the leader. Fig. 1c shows one of the device electrodes 14 underlying leader 20, but there is no recognition that such electrode could serve to bridge a gap between disconnected leader portions, as in the invention as recited in present claims 1-27 as amended.

New claim 28 does not require the opening to extend the full width of the metal auxiliary electrode, and hence does not require a discontinuity (although such embodiments are within the scope of that claim). New claim 28 is instead distinguished from the disclosure of FLEMING et al. by the character of the second transparent electrode that underlies the metal auxiliary electrode in the sealing region. In the invention as recited in claim 28, that second transparent electrode lies entirely outside the area occupied by the organic layer, as shown in Figs. 4 and 13; in contrast to the devices described by FLEMING et al., wherein, when the apertured portion of the metal leader overlies a transparent electrode 14, that electrode is one of the device electrodes and thus overlaps the organic layer over a substantial proportion of its length.

From the above discussion, it is believed that new and amended claims 1-28 are free of the prior art applied in the previous Official Action.

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of record are therefore respectfully requested, together with allowance of the present application and passage to issue with the new and amended claims 1-28.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew J. Patch", is written over a horizontal line.

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